

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for providing a framework for document objects located on a network, the method comprising:

creating one or more link directories for storing link relationships between document objects located on the network;

enabling users of the network to the creation of a link relationships between a first document object located on the network and a second document object located on the network;

allowing users to the assignment of attributes describing the link relationships and the document objects related by the link relationships; and

managing presentation to a user of retrieving the link relationships between the document objects located on the network using the assigned attributes to determine which link relationships are presented to the user and the manner in which the link relationships are presented. a unique identifier that locates a document object on the network

Claim 2 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, ~~wherein the following step comprises~~ further comprising the step of: ÷

~~—defining one or more link relationship attributes describing the link relationships stored in the one or more link directories; and~~

— assigning one or more link relationship attributes to each link relationship, wherein the one or more assigned link relationship attributes describe the link relationship as determined by the user assigning the link relationship attributes; and

—storing the link relationships with the attributes in the one or more link directories located on the network separate from the document objects.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of managing,
wherein the managing step comprises:

creating one or more user profiles, wherein the one or more user profiles specify one or more link directories and one or more attributes relevant to a user's interests;

~~retrieving from the one or more link directories one or more link relationships between a current document object accessed by the user and other document objects located on the network;~~

~~—applying the one or more user profiles as filters against the one or more retrieved link relationships to determine which link relationships to present to the a user; and~~

~~presenting the retrieved and filtered link relationships to the user while the user is accessing a document object.~~

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises permitting users of the network to access the one or more link directories;

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 3, wherein the presenting step comprises ordering the link relationships presented to the user by link directories and by discrete attributes describing the link relationships.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The method of claim 2, wherein the allowing step further comprises:

~~—defining one or more document object attributes describing link references to the document objects related by the link relationships stored in the one or more link directories; and~~

~~—assigning one or more document object attributes to each link reference one of the document objects, wherein the assigned document object attributes describe the document objects as determined by the user assigning the document object attributes.~~

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~6~~ 1, wherein the enabling step of assigning one or more relevant link relationship attributes comprises:

~~choosing assigning one or more document object attributes associated with to the first document object;~~

~~choosing assigning one or more document object attributes associated with to the second document object; and~~

~~generating creating a link relationship attribute comprising described by a relationship between the ~~chosen document object~~ assigned attribute for the first document object and the ~~chosen document object~~ assigned attribute for the second document object.~~

Claims 8-13 (canceled).

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 3, wherein the managing step further comprises permitting the user to identify link directories containing link relationships to the document object the user is accessing.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~3~~1, ~~wherein the managing step further comprises~~ comprising permitting the user to identify identification of link relationships assigned a particular attribute.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~2~~1, wherein one of the ~~link relationship~~ attributes identifies ~~the user who created a~~ creator of the link relationship.

Claim 17 (canceled).

Claim 18 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~6~~1, wherein one of the ~~document object~~ attributes identifies ~~the~~ an entity responsible for ~~the~~ a document object ~~located on the network to which the document object attribute applies.~~

Claim 19 (currently amended): The method of claim 18, ~~wherein the managing step further comprises~~ presenting to the a user link references to document objects associated with an ~~identified~~ the responsible entity.

Claim 20 (canceled).

Claim 21 (canceled).

Claim 22 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~24~~3, wherein the managing step further comprises presenting a user of the network accessing a link relationship with ~~the~~ an identity of ~~the user creating a creator of~~ the link relationship, ~~and the identity of the entities responsible for the document objects.~~

Claim 23 (original): The method of claim 3, wherein the step of presenting the retrieved and filtered link relationships is restricted to authorized users.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~2~~35, wherein the allowing step further comprises defining valid data types associated with ~~each link relationship~~ the attribute values.

Claim 25 (currently amended): The method of claim 24, further comprising validating ~~link relationship attribute~~ values ~~assigned by users,~~ the validating comprising matching ~~defined the~~ valid data types to the attribute values ~~assigned to the link relationship attributes by users.~~

Claim 26 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~24~~3, wherein the managing step further comprises permitting users to specify a value or range of values for a selected attribute used to filter the retrieved link relationships.

Claim 27 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the link relationship created by the user in the enabling step comprises a link reference including a network address containing a bookmark.

Claim 28 (currently amended): A computer readable medium upon which is embedded instructions for carrying out a method for providing a framework for document objects located on a network, the method comprising:

- maintaining one or more link directories for storing link relationships between document objects located on the network;

- creating a link relationships between a first document object located on the network and a second document object located on the network;

- allowing users to assign attributes describing a the link relationship and the document objects related by the link relationship; and

- ~~managing presentation of~~ retrieving the link relationships using a unique identifier that identifies a document object. ~~the assigned attributes to determine which link relationships are presented and the manner in which the link relationships are presented.~~

Claim 29 (currently amended): The computer readable medium of claim 28, wherein the allowing step comprises:

- defining one or more link relationship attributes describing the link relationships stored in the one or more link directories; and

- assigning one or more link relationship attributes to each link relationship, wherein the one or more assigned link relationship attributes describe the link relationship as determined by the user assigning the link relationship attributes; and

- storing the link relationships with the attributes in the one or more link directories located on the network ~~separate from the document objects.~~

Claim 30 (currently amended): The computer readable medium of claim 28, wherein the managing step comprises:

- creating one or more user profiles, wherein the one or more user profiles specify one or more link directories and one or more attributes relevant to the user's interests;

- ~~retrieving from the one or more link directories one or more link relationships between a current document object accessed by a user and other document objects located on the network;~~

applying the one or more user profiles as filters against the one or more retrieved link relationships to determine which link relationships to present; and
presenting the retrieved and filtered link relationships while a document object is accessed.

Claim 31 (original): The computer readable medium of claim 30, wherein the presenting step comprises ordering the link relationships presented by link directories and by discrete attributes describing the link relationships.

Claim 32 (currently amended): The computer readable medium of claim 29 28, ~~wherein the allowing step further comprises~~ comprising:

~~defining one or more document object a list of attributes, describing link references to the document objects related by the link relationships stored in the one or more link directories; and~~
~~— assigning one or more document object attributes to each link reference at the time the associated link relationship is created, wherein the assigned document object attributes describe the document objects as determined by the user assigning the document object attributes.~~

Claim 33 (new): The method of claim 1, further comprising creating a list of attributes.

Claim 34 (new): The method of claim 33 wherein the allowing step comprises assigning attributes from the list of attributes.

Claim 35 (new): The method of claim 33 further comprising creating a list of attribute values that correspond to an attribute in the list of attributes.

Claim 36 (new): The method of claim 35 wherein the allowing step further comprises assigning attribute values from the list of attribute values.

Claim 37 (new): The method of claim 36 wherein the assignment of an attribute value automatically inherits the benefit of the context of the associated attribute.

Claim 38 (new): The method of claim 33 further comprising declaring that a first attribute is subordinate to a second attribute.

Claim 39 (new): The method of claim 38 wherein the assignment of the second attribute automatically inherits the benefit of the context of being subordinate to the second attribute.

Claim 40 (new): The method of claim 33 comprising declaring that the first attribute is dependent of a plurality of other attributes.

Claim 41 (new): The method of claim 40 wherein the assignment of the first attribute automatically inherits the benefit of the context of the assigned plurality of other attributes

Claim 42 (new): The method of claim 35 further comprising declaring an attribute from the list of attributes is subordinate to an attribute value from the list of attribute values.

Claim 43 (new): The method of claim 33 further comprising:

- identifying a first attribute;

- identifying a second attribute;

- creating a pair attribute that further describes a link relationship described by the first attribute and the second attribute.

Claim 44 (new): The method of claim 43 further comprising declaring pair attribute values further describing the one or more pair attributes.

Claim 45 (new): The method of claim 43 wherein the allowing step further comprises assigning the pair attribute to the link relationship described by the first attribute and the second attribute.

Claim 46 (new): The method of claim 45 comprising assigning a pair attribute value to the link relationship described by the first attribute and the second attribute.

Claim 47 (new): The method of claim 33 further comprising declaring that one or more attributes from the list of attributes is required to be assigned.

Claim 48 (new): The method of claim 33 further comprising declaring that a first attribute from the list of attributes must be assigned when a second attribute from the list of attributes is assigned.

Claim 49 (new): The method of claim 6, further comprising permitting the identification of document objects assigned a particular attribute.